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10 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Support
Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Completion of the Catching Up Phase of the
CIA Historical Program

1. The Agency deadline for the completion of the catching up phase of the CIA Historical Program, 31 December 1971, is rapidly approaching. Recently I reviewed the progress made to date to see where we are at present and what the prospects are for completing the Program by the end of December. While there are a number of histories in draft, awaiting review and revision, and a substantial number being written, there are too many still in the research stage, and far too many that are inactive. It is apparent that a greater effort will have to be made to complete the first phase by 31 December.

2. Since last fall a momentum has been building up in the Program. If this can be increased a very little and the drive sustained, three of the directorates, aside from one or two histories, will either meet or will come close to meeting the deadline. In the fourth directorate the situation is less hopeful.

3. It has been suggested that a new and later deadline for the completion of the catching up phase be established. I would prefer, however, not to do this. A postponement would cause a rapid decrease in the momentum that has been achieved only through great effort, and would delay the Program more than is really necessary. It is important, I feel, to complete the catching up phase before retirement and other assignments have removed knowledgeable and experienced personnel. Also, we

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are anxious to get started on the next phase of the Program - the ongoing part that begins around 1965. We would like to start the planning this spring and begin work, in some areas, before the end of the year. Rather than change the deadline, I would hope that you would give the achievement of these projects your personal attention.

4. The Historical Program needs stronger support from division and branch chiefs and heads of staffs, offices, and services, who will assume the responsibility of seeing that writers are assigned to all histories, that they have the time for research and writing, and that suspense dates are so set that they will allow the Historical Staff and Historical Boards ample time for review and evaluation of manuscripts.

5. Dr. Ehrmann and the Historical Staff are eager to be of as much assistance as they can to writers and historical officers throughout the Program.

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L. K. White
Executive Director-Comptroller

CC: O/ExDir-Comp
Executive Registry
Chief, Hist Staff

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